

Concerns over tower

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We refer to the article (“Concerns over tower”, Plainsman, Wednesday October 21), which reported on residents in Montrose Park who are objecting to a cellphone tower a mere 20m from the nearest home.

This is a residential area where neighbours have been faced with various health issues from autism to cancer who are concerned that

this technology may have further impact.

Their concerns follow a recent appeal to the United Nations by a couple of hundred of scientists who have collectively published over 2 000 peer-reviewed papers on the biological or health effects of non-ionizing radiation.

There are parallels with our own community’s experience where masts were installed a similar distance from the nearest homes.

Historical detail and maps available online demonstrate how the vast majority of

households in the Strawberry Lane area repeatedly petitioned against them for various reasons.

The Dalham Road mast installed in the area in November last year is still operational, despite ongoing opposition and a High Court ruling against the building plan approval in June.

Residents in areas like Montrose Park, however, can’t afford the same legal challenge.

Alternative solutions in all residential areas include greater investment by cellphone operators in antennae which operate over a few hundred metres rather than kilometres.

Allowing dissenting communities democratic choice and incentivising the use of fibre cabling to reduce the wireless

load. More education on ways for society to reduce its electrosmog footprint instead of compounding the problem for future generations to deal with.

And acknowledgement of the problem instead of ongoing denial so that these and other solutions can flow.



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Facebook to our front page story titled “Concerns over tower,” Plainsman, October 21.

This site in Montrose Park demonstrates clearly how outrageous the outdated International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines are which still do not acknowledge any non-thermal biological effects from electromagnetic radiation.

How can Leon du Toit, from the national Department of Health; Siyabulela Mamkeli, council’s Grant Projects Review Committee mayoral committee social cluster and Johan van der Merwe,

mayoral committee member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, and other City officials possibly justify these distances in the face of all the evidence for concern accumulated to date?

Quoting ICNIRP’s clear political and industry bias is no longer acceptable and people in poorer communities in particular need more support from local government, not less as we’ve highlighted to Council on several occasions over the years. See our site www.emrsa.co.za for more detailed research collated over the years following the erection of cellphone towers in Constantia, a similar distance way from the nearest home, in line with the antennae.